Technical Assistance Conference Call for the Veterans Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Program (VBSN)
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United States Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Bureau of Health Professions
Division of Nursing
Nursing Practice and Workforce and Development Branch

Legislative Authority

- Title VIII, sections 831 and 831a of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296p and 42 U.S.C.296p-1), as amended and added by section 5309 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148.

VBSN 2014 FOA Overview

- Program purpose and goals
- Legislative and program intent
- Applicant and participant eligibility
- Special considerations
- Review Criteria
- Required documents
- Budget Considerations
- Reporting requirements
- Questions and answers (following GMS presentation)

VBSN Purpose

- Reduce barriers for veterans transitioning into nursing careers
- Develop career–ladder model BSN programs for veterans
- Equip veterans with knowledge and skills to pass NCLEX-RN licensing exams
- Expand employment and career advancement opportunities for veterans who obtain BSN degrees

VBSN Goals

- Develop innovative education models that award nursing academic credit for veterans with prior military medical training and experience

- Increase faculty knowledge of the unique needs of military veteran BSN students

VBSN Goals Cont'd.

- Increase the number of educationally and/ or economically disadvantaged persons with disabilities including veterans in the nursing and healthcare workforce.

- Explore best practices for veterans' enrollment, graduation and employment in nursing careers.

Eligible Applicant Organizations

- Accredited schools and colleges of nursing,

- A health care facility as defined in Section
  801(11); OR

- Partnership with such an accredited school of
  nursing or college of nursing that confers BSN
  degrees.

Eligible Program Participants

- Honorably or generally discharged service members (including reservists), with prior medical training, who have not yet earned BSN degrees;

- U.S. citizens, non-citizen-nationals, or foreign nationals who possess visas permitting permanent residence in the United States.

Accrediting Agencies 2014

- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
- National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
- United States Department of Education approval agency
    - Kansas Board of Nursing
    - Maryland Board of Nursing
    - Missouri Board of Nursing
    - Montana Board of Nursing
    - North Dakota Board of Nursing
    - New York Board of Nursing

Application and Submission Information

- Enclose proof of being an accredited BSN School of Nursing or partnered with such an entity.

- Enclose proof that your organization is a Servicemember Opportunity College (SOC) or has a Department of Defense MOU contract in place.

Application and Submission Information Cont'd.

- Ensure the Project Director is a licensed Registered Nurse

- Explain how your organization meets criteria if requesting a funding preference as described in the VBSN FOA

Statutory Funding Preference

Applicants will be placed in a more competitive position if you can describe how your proposed project meets funding preference qualification within as described in Section V 2. (Review and Selection Process) and documented in Attachment #7.

Statutory Funding Preference Categories

- Substantially benefits rural areas

  OR

- Substantially benefits medically underserved populations

  OR

- Helps meet Public Health Nursing needs in state and local health departments

Electronic Application Submission

- Submit application **electronically** via grants.gov and ensure uploaded file and printed pages **do not exceed 80 Pages**

- Ensure applicant's Systems for Award Management (SAM) https://www.sam.gov and Grants.gov registrations are current.

Review Criteria Categories and Points

- **Criterion 1**: **Need** = 10 points

- **Criterion 2**: **Response** = 30 points

- **Criterion 3**: **Evaluative Measures** = 30 points

- **Criterion 4**: **Impact** = 10 points

- **Criterion 5**: **Resources/Capabilities** = 15 points

- **Criterion 6**: **Support Requested** = 05 points

Review Criterion One: Need

- Describes target student pool and needs of the identified target group

- Includes supportive data describing challenges faced by veterans pursuing BSN degrees

- Describes benefits to stakeholders (e.g., patient outcomes, families, communities) as a result of the project

- Describes project's geographic location, healthcare quality and access, and clinical sites

Review Criterion Two: Response

- Describes veteran-targeted didactic, clinical, and support services modifications to BSN curriculum
- Strategies to be used to address barriers as described in the need section
- Process for awarding credit for prior military training/experience, and deployment contingency plans
- Describes clinical teaching site(s), partners, and their role
- Describes faculty training for teaching veterans and understanding military culture
- Partners role in the enrollment, retention, graduation, NCLEX-RN passage for veteran BSN students
- Innovations, theoretical concepts, methodologies, instruments and other tools to support student success

Review Criterion Three: Evaluative Measures

- Detailed description of strategies for assessing project objectives and activities
- Describes plan for tracking process and outcomes measures for HRSA reports
- Clear description of evaluation methodology
- Describes quantitative and qualitative evaluation measures and metrics for each objective
- Details process used to validate and monitor data collection for expected results and challenges encountered
- Describes collaborative efforts with HRSA in developing harmonized data collection across projects

Review Criterion Four: Impact

- Explains how project will increase the number of BSN prepared veteran graduates, and graduate projections

- Expected enrollment & how strategies will streamline admission, retention, matriculation, and help veterans successfully transition to civilian professional nursing role

- How their model can be replicated, disseminated and contingency plans for deployed veterans to finish education

- How this program will improve access to care and improve health for vulnerable and medically underserved populations

Review Criterion Five: Resources/Capabilities

- Describes nursing credentials of PD relevant to the VBSN project
- Describes extent of BSN curriculum development experience of PD or key personnel
- Describes facilities and personnel that indicate sufficient ability to fulfill proposed project requirements and timeline to meet objectives and goals
- Reflects all key positions/personnel in the project organization chart
- Describes evidence of support from collaborating partners and solid commitment (e.g., letters of support, memoranda of understanding, contracts etc.)
- Describes a sustainability plan and self-sufficiency timetable for after federal funding ends

Review Criterion Six: Support Requested

- Demonstrates a detailed budget for each year, that does not exceed budget caps

- Indicates key personnel have devoted adequate time to the project to achieve the project goals and outcomes

- Demonstrates line items are linked to the project

- Demonstrates costs are reasonable, allowable and justified in accordance with the FOA guidance

Application and Submission Reminder

- Be aware of staff salary limit that must not exceed a rate in excess of Executive II level ($179,700 – refer to page 26 of Application guide for specifics).

- Ensure your organization is a Servicemember Opportunity College (SOC) or has a current DoD MOU contract in place

Application and Submission Tips

- Ensure that only one Project Director is listed and that they are a licensed Registered Nurse

- Ensure established and adequate procurement systems are developed so that all contracts and sub-recipients can be monitored

VBSN 2014 ATTACHMENTS

- **REQUIRED** Attachments include:

  1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,10

- *ONLY IF APPLICABLE* Attachments are:

  7, 11,12,13,14,15

Attachments 1-3

*indicates required

- **#1** BSN Nursing Program Accreditation *(official documentation)**

- **#2** Staffing Plan and Job Descriptions for all key personnel position descriptions and applicant institution's organizational chart*

- **#3** Project Specific Letters of Agreement and/or existing or proposed contracts/binding agreements* *(excluding clinical practice site LOA's or contracts)*

Attachments 4-6

*indicates required

- **#4** Project Organizational Chart(VBSN) 1-paged figure depicting the organizational structure for the entity responsible for the managing the HRSA award.*

- **#5** Clinical Practice Site Letters of Agreement and/or existing or proposed contracts/binding agreements*

- **#6** Maintenance of effort documentation*(*speaks to project sustainability non-govt. financial resources)*

Attachments 7-9

* indicates required

- **#7** Funding Preference Request Statement *(if applicable) (see description in Section V 2. and Attachment 7)*

- **#8** Health Professions Institutional Diversity Statement* *(specific to the applicant SON/CON)*

- **#9** VBSN Program Summary Plan* (1-page) See Attachment 9 description

Attachments 10-15

*indicates required

- **#10** Servicemember Opportunity College or Department of Defense Memorandum of Understanding status * (1 web-page)

- **#11** Statement of Federal Indebtedness *(if applicable)*

- **#12** Indirect and/or non-binding miscellaneous Letters of Support *(if applicable)*

- **# 13-15** Include any other documents relevant to the application *(if applicable)*

Budget Considerations

- Be aware of budget justification requirements for <u>each</u> year of the **3-year** project period

- Ensure that equipment purchases meet all the requirements outlined in the announcement

- Include only allowable items in your budget that are project-related

HRSA Reporting Requirements

- Comply with audit requirements of OMB Circular A-133 that can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_default

- Submit quarterly Federal Financial Report (FFR) Cash transaction reports via Payment Management System

- Submit status reports
    - Federal Financial Report (SF-425)
    - Progress Report (**annual**)
    - Performance Report (**bi-annual**)
    - Final Report (90 days after project ends)

Additional Reporting Requirements

- Collaborating with HRSA either directly or through a HRSA appointed designee to provide information needed for evaluating project outcomes.

VBSN 2014 Application Deadline

All applications must be submitted electronically by 11:59 PM
Eastern Time **February 18, 2014**

Helpful Online Resources

- HRSA Division of Nursing

- Tips for writing strong grant applications

- Applications focusing on underserved populations

- SAM registration status

- Servicemember Opportunity College

- Department of Defense MOU

- AACN Joining Forces Enhancing Veterans' Care Toolkit

- The Tri-Council for Nursing Leads Academic Progression in Nursing, a National Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

- http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing

- http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants/apply/grantstips.html

- http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants/apply/TechnicalAssistance/index.html

- http://www.sam.gov

- http://www.soc.aascu.org

- http://www.dodmou.com

- http://www.aacn.nche.edu/downloads/joining-forces-tool-kit

- http://www.nln.org/newsreleases/Tri-C_APIN_Announcement_082012.pdf

Program Technical Assistance Contact

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Thank You!

DIVISION OF NURSING

http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/index.html

Health Insurance Marketplace

https://www.healthcare.gov

Tracking Your Application Status

- Tracking an Application in GRANTS.GOV

- http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-faqs/tracking-an-application.html

Questions Will Be Addressed Following the GMS Presentation

VBSN Budget Considerations
GMS Overview:
Barbara Ellis